

Message Text

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43

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: AGRARIAN/POLITICAL JOURNALIST EXCHANGE

REF: MOSCOW 752; MOSCOW 1312

1. DEPT'S PRELIMINARY REACTION TO SUGGESTION FOR EXCHANGE OF EDITORS OR DEPUTY EDITORS OF POLITICAL PUBLICATIONS IS POSITIVE. HOWEVER WE HOPE SOVDEL WOULD REPRESENT PUBLICATIONS WITH GENERAL AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL FOCUS. WE FULLY AGREE WITH EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT DEL SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF SOVIETS WHO HAVE NOT VISITED U.S. OR AT LEAST NOT IN PAST FEW YEARS. WE PARTICULARLY WISH AVOID DEL STACKED WITH OLD LINE SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AND WHO KNOW THIS COUNTRY WELL. WE WOULD PREFER DEL OF NO MORE THAN 6 MEMBERS SINCE WE BELIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRAM CAN BE ARRANGED FOR SMALLER GROUP.

2. WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A SECOND EXCHANGE OF UP TO 5 AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS, IF SOVIETS GIVE EVI-

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DENCE OF BEING ABLE TO COME UP WITH HIGH-LEVEL CANDIDATES.

FYI WE WOULD HOPE THAT AN AGRICULTURE JOURNALISTS' DELEGATION WOULD INCLUDE WRITERS WHO ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN AGRO-ECONOMICS. ALTERNATELY WE WOULD CONSIDER EXCHANGE OF ECONOMIC JOURNALISTS SHOULD SOVIETS EXPRESS INTEREST. END FYI.

3. SUGGEST EMBASSY PROCEED ALONG LINES RECOMMENDED PARA 4 OF MOSCOW'S 1312, AND ALSO EXPLORE SOVIET INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE OF DEL OF AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS, PREFERABLY IN 1ST HALF OF '76.

4. DEPT WOULD BE WILLING TO AUTHORIZE IV GRANTS FOR THESE DELEGATIONS IF OBJECTIVES NOTED PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MET. KISSINGER

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